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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/737,287	12/16/2003	James A. Smith	WATCH-6	6534

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EXAMINER

GUIDOTTI, LAURA COLE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1744

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/02/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/737,287

Applicant(s)

SMITH ET AL.

Examiner

Laura C. Guidotti

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 February 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 9,10,18-20 and 25-35 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8,11-17 and 21-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 December 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 06042004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 9-10, 18-20, and 25-35 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 05 February 2007.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the contact portions (claim 1), supplemental mounting structure (claims 11 and 21) must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New

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Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 7 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 7 recites the limitation "said loops" in Line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 23, it is unclear as to what is meant by "...wipe detachably mounted to said reusable mounting structure and to said reusable mounting structure."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

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4. Claims 1-4, 6-8, 11-17, 21, and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Smith et al., US 6,745,434.

The applied reference has a common inventor and assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

Smith et al. disclose the claimed invention including a flexible cover (10-10F; Column 7 Line 47), the cover in its flat unassembled condition having a first end and a second end (12, 14; Column 7 Lines 47-49), a continuous intermediate section between the first end and second end (16; Column 7 Lines 49-50), the second end being bifurcated to create a pair of spaced outwardly extending flaps with an open area between the flaps (22, 22A; Column 7 Lines 50-52), the cover having an inner surface and an outer surface (Figures; Column 7 Lines 52-53), the intermediate section including a central section between the first end and second end (Column 7 Lines 53-55), fastening structure on the inner surface of the flaps (24; Column 7 Line 55), complementary fastening structure on the outer surface of the first end (26; Column 7 Lines 56-27), the fastening structure and the complementary fastening structure being located for engagement to form a closed loop around the cleaning head with the flaps being outwardly of and secured to the first end whereby the open area between the

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flaps is adapted to accommodate a handle extending outwardly from the cleaning head (see Figures; Column 7 Line 58 to Column 8 Line 6), the loop having a top and a bottom (see Figures; Column 8 Lines 6-7), the central section being at the bottom of the loop remote from the secured first end and flaps at the top of the loop (see Figures; Column 8 Lines 7-9), the intermediate section having a first contact portion on one side of the loop adjacent to the central section (at 28 or on 34), the intermediate section having a second contact portion on an opposite side of the loop adjacent to the central section (also at 28 or on 34, see Figures 2 and 6-8 in particular), each of the first contact portion and second contact portion being made of absorbent material to provide a cleaning area (as material that comprises the entirety of 10 is capable of being absorbent; Column 5 Lines 56-60; Column 7 Lines 23-34). Regarding claim 2, there is dispensing structure in the cleaning area of at least one side of the loop (20). Regarding claim 3, the entire cover is made of the absorbent material to provide a single cleaning area extending from one side of the loop to the opposite side of the loop (see Figures), the cover being impregnated throughout (Column 5 Line 64 to Column 6 Line 4; Column 8 Lines 47-48). Regarding claim 4, the central section is made of absorbent material whereby the contact portions are integral with each other to form a single continuous area (as contact portions are either at 28 or 34, see Figures 2 and 6-8 in particular), the dispensing structure being a pad (20) mounted to the cover in the continuous cleaning area (see Figures 2 and 6-8 in particular), the pad containing an added ingredient (Column 4 Lines 5-9). Regarding claim 6, the pad is located against the outer surface of the outside of the loop (see Figures), the pad extending from one side of the loop to

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the opposite side of the loop across the central section (see Figures, in particular Figures 7-8). Regarding claim 7, the pad is located on one side of the loop and does not extend to an opposite side of the loop whereby the cleaning area on the opposite side of the loop may function as a wipe (see Figures; "opposite side" may be any side of 10 opposite a pad 20). Regarding claim 8, the pad is a coating non-detachably mounted to the cover (as pad 20 could be considered a coating if left on 10 and never detached by a user.) Regarding claims 11 and 21, the intermediate section has side edges (Figures 10 or 11) whereby the loop has two opposite sets of side edges (Figures 10 or 11), and each of the sets of the side edges having supplemental fastening structure to secure sets of edges together (48; Column 7 Lines 22-25). Regarding claims 13 and 24, there is a cleaning implement having a cleaning head (6) and handle (4), and the cover being mounted around the head with the handle extending outwardly from the cleaning head through the open area between the flaps (Figures 2-3). Regarding claim 14, the device additionally includes reusable mounting structure on the outer surface on a first side wall (36) and further reusable mounting structure on the outer surface of the cover (36), and the central section being at the bottom of the loop remote from the secured first end and flaps at the top of the loop (Figure 7), the reusable mounting structure exposed at the outer surface to detachably mount a detached wipe (20) at the first sidewall of the loop. Regarding claim 15, the wipe may be mounted to the cover confined to the first wall (Figures 7-8). Regarding claim 16, the mounting structure is on the central area whereby a wipe may be mounted to the cover on the first wall extending to a central section (16A, Column 5 Lines 31-33). Regarding

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claim 17, the further reusable mounting structure is on the outer surface of the second wall whereby a wipe may be mounted to the cover to both of the walls and across the central section (see Figures 7-8; Column 5 Lines 31-33). Regarding claim 23, there is a wipe detachably mounted to the reusable mounting structure (20).

5. Claims 1-2, 4, 6-8, 12-17, and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Smith, US 6,705,792.

The applied reference has a common inventor and assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

Smith discloses the claimed invention including a flexible cover (16-16D; Column 6 Lines 17-18), the cover in its flat unassembled condition having a first end and a second end (unlabeled, see Figures; Column 2 Line 63 to Column 3 Line 5), a continuous intermediate section between the first end and second end (26), the second end being bifurcated to create a pair of spaced outwardly extending flaps with an open area between the flaps (22; Figure 3), the cover having an inner surface and an outer surface (Figures), the intermediate section including a central section between the first end and second end (also at 26, see Figures), fastening structure on the inner surface of the flaps (unlabeled, Column 2 Line 66 to Column 3 Line 5), complementary fastening

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structure on the outer surface of the first end (24; Column 2 Line 66 to Column 3 Line 5), the fastening structure and the complementary fastening structure being located for engagement to form a closed loop around the cleaning head with the flaps being outwardly of and secured to the first end whereby the open area between the flaps is adapted to accommodate a handle extending outwardly from the cleaning head (see Figure 3), the loop having a top and a bottom (see Figures), the central section being at the bottom of the loop remote from the secured first end and flaps at the top of the loop (see Figures), the intermediate section having a first contact portion on one side of the loop adjacent to the central section (on 28 or 30; or 64 or 66), the intermediate section having a second contact portion on an opposite side of the loop adjacent to the central section (on 28, 30, 30C; or 46; or 64 or 66), each of the first contact portion and second contact portion being made of absorbent material to provide a cleaning area (as foam 64 is capable of being absorbent). Regarding claim 2, there is dispensing structure in the cleaning area of at least one side of the loop (34, 44, 46, 56, or 60). Regarding claim 4, the central section is made of absorbent material whereby the contact portions are integral with each other to form a single continuous area (as contact portions are either at 30C, see Figure 11 in particular), the dispensing structure being a pad (34) mounted to the cover in the continuous cleaning area (Figure 11), the pad containing an added ingredient (the ingredient "added" at 44, see Figure 11). Regarding claim 6, the pad is located against the outer surface of the outside of the loop (see Figures), the pad extending from one side of the loop to the opposite side of the loop across the central section (see Figures). Regarding claim 7, the pad is located on one side of the loop and

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does not extend to an opposite side of the loop whereby the cleaning area on the opposite side of the loop may function as a wipe (see Figures). Regarding claim 8, the pad is a coating non-detachably mounted to the cover (as pad 64 could be considered a coating particularly when sealed in during the manufacturing step, Column 5 Lines 34-38.) Regarding claims 12 and 22, the intermediate section has side edges whereby the loop has two opposite sets of side edges (the loop side edges are the wings 28, 30) and one of the sets of side edges being longer than the other of the sets of side edges (as shown in Figures 7 and 9) whereby the bottom section is slanted to conform to a slanted shape of the cleaning implement (see Figures, most particularly Figures 4-9).

Regarding claims 13 and 24, there is a cleaning implement having a cleaning head (12) and handle (14), and the cover being mounted around the head with the handle extending outwardly from the cleaning head through the open area between the flaps (see Figures). Regarding claim 14, the device additionally includes reusable mounting structure on the outer surface on a first side wall (32) and further reusable mounting structure on the outer surface of the cover (see Figures), and the central section being at the bottom of the loop remote from the secured first end and flaps at the top of the loop (see Figures), the reusable mounting structure exposed at the outer surface to detachably mount a detached wipe (34) at the first sidewall of the loop. Regarding claim 15, the wipe may be mounted to the cover confined to the first wall (Figures 7-9). Regarding claim 16, the mounting structure is on the central area whereby a wipe may be mounted to the cover on the first wall extending to a central section (see Figures). Regarding claim 17, the further reusable mounting structure is on the outer surface of

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the second wall (also 32) whereby a wipe may be mounted to the cover to both of the walls and across the central section (see Figures 1, 3, and 11-14). Regarding claim 23, there is a wipe detachably mounted to the reusable mounting structure (34).

6. Claims 1-2, 4-7, 11, 13-17, 21, and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gougeon, US 2,293,461.

Gougeon discloses the claimed invention including a flexible cover (29), the cover in its flat unassembled condition having a first end and a second end (see Figure 5, first and second ends are ends of 31 and 33), a continuous intermediate section between the first end and second end (at 32), the second end being bifurcated to create a pair of spaced outwardly extending flaps with an open area between the flaps (12 with the open area at 10), the cover having an inner surface and an outer surface (see Figures), the intermediate section including a central section between the first end and second end (also at 32, see Figures), fastening structure on the inner surface of the flaps (13; Page 1 Column 2 Lines 52-54), complementary fastening structure on the outer surface of the first end (the fastening structure being the end itself), the fastening structure and the complementary fastening structure being located for engagement to form a closed loop around the cleaning head with the flaps being outwardly of and secured to the first end whereby the open area between the flaps is adapted to accommodate a handle extending outwardly from the cleaning head (see Figures 1-2), the loop having a top and a bottom (see Figures), the central section being at the bottom of the loop remote from the secured first end and flaps at the top of the loop (see Figures), the intermediate section having a first contact portion on one side of the loop

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adjacent to the central section (near point 21 as shown in Figure 2), the intermediate section having a second contact portion on an opposite side of the loop adjacent to the central section (also near opposing point 21 as shown in Figure 2), each of the first contact portion and second contact portion being made of absorbent material to provide a cleaning area (as material 17, 18 is capable of being absorbent; Page 2 Column 1 Line 3). Regarding claim 2, there is dispensing structure in the cleaning area of at least one side of the loop (17, 18). Regarding claim 4, the central section is made of absorbent material whereby the contact portions are integral with each other to form a single continuous area (17, 18; see Figure 2), the dispensing structure being a pad (17, 18) mounted to the cover in the continuous cleaning area (see Figure 2), the pad containing an added ingredient (as it is capable of containing oil when cleaning or polishing Page 2 Column 1 Lines 2-5). Regarding claim 5, the pad is located against the inner surface of the loop (as it is stitched, Figure 2), and the pad extending from one side of the loop to the opposite side of the loop across the central section (see Figures). Regarding claim 6, the pad is located against the outer surface of the outside of the loop (see Figure 2), the pad extending from one side of the loop to the opposite side of the loop across the central section (see Figures). Regarding claim 7, the pad is located on one side of the loop and does not extend to an opposite side of the loop whereby the cleaning area on the opposite side of the loop may function as a wipe (see Figures). Regarding claims 11 and 21, the intermediate section has side edges (29) whereby the loop has two sets of side edges (see Figures), and each of the sets of side edges having supplemental fastening structure (24; Page 1 Column 2 Lines 45-51). Regarding

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claims 13 and 24, there is a cleaning implement having a cleaning head (broom head, Page 1 Column 2 Line 6) and handle (broom handle, shown in Figures), and the cover being mounted around the head with the handle extending outwardly from the cleaning head through the open area between the flaps (see Figures 1-2). Regarding claim 14, the device additionally includes reusable mounting structure on the outer surface on a first side wall (21) and further reusable mounting structure on the outer surface of the cover (23), and the central section being at the bottom of the loop remote from the secured first end and flaps at the top of the loop (see Figures), the reusable mounting structure (the reusable mounting structure is stitching in this case) exposed at the outer surface to detachably mount a detached wipe (17) at the first sidewall of the loop (and the stitching is capable to detachably mount something, as it can be detached easily by pulling or cutting the stitching). Regarding claim 16, the mounting structure is on the central area (at 23) whereby a wipe may be mounted to the cover on the first wall extending to a central section (see Figures). Regarding claim 17, the further reusable mounting structure is on the outer surface of the second wall (also 21) whereby a wipe may be mounted to the cover to both of the walls and across the central section (see Figure 2). Regarding claim 23, there is a wipe detachably mounted to the reusable mounting structure (17).

7. Claims 1-2, 4, 6-8, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Granville et al., US 3,400,420.

Granville et al. disclose the claimed invention including a flexible cover (10; Column 2 Lines 55-57; Column 3 Lines 20-28), the cover in its flat unassembled

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condition having a first end and a second end (see Figure 1, left and right ends), a continuous intermediate section between the first end and second end (26), the second end being bifurcated to create a pair of spaced outwardly extending flaps with an open area between the flaps (Figure 4), the cover having an inner surface and an outer surface (see Figures), the intermediate section including a central section between the first end and second end (also at 26, see Figures), fastening structure on the inner surface of the flaps (33a, 33b), complementary fastening structure on the outer surface of the first end (the fastening structure being the end itself), the fastening structure and the complementary fastening structure being located for engagement to form a closed loop around the cleaning head with the flaps being outwardly of and secured to the first end whereby the open area between the flaps is adapted to accommodate a handle extending outwardly from the cleaning head (see Figure 8), the loop having a top and a bottom (see Figures), the central section being at the bottom of the loop remote from the secured first end and flaps at the top of the loop (see Figures), the intermediate section having a first contact portion on one side of the loop adjacent to the central section (near point 28a, Figure 10), the intermediate section having a second contact portion on an opposite side of the loop adjacent to the central section (Figure 28b, Figure 10), each of the first contact portion and second contact portion being made of absorbent material to provide a cleaning area (Column 3 Lines 46-51, or alternatively Column 3 Lines 29-34 state that the material of 10 is capable of absorbing liquid as it has a high wet strength). Regarding claim 2, there is dispensing structure in the cleaning area of at least one side of the loop (20 dispenses a chemical compound,

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Column 3 Lines 35-51). Regarding claim 4, the central section is made of absorbent material whereby the contact portions are integral with each other to form a single continuous area (see Figures; Column 3 Lines 46-51), the dispensing structure being a pad (20) mounted to the cover in the continuous cleaning area (see Figures), the pad containing an added ingredient (Column 3 Lines 35-51). Regarding claim 6, the pad is located against the outer surface of the outside of the loop (see Figure 3), the pad extending from one side of the loop to the opposite side of the loop across the central section (see Figures). Regarding claim 7, the pad is located on one side of the loop and does not extend to an opposite side of the loop whereby the cleaning area on the opposite side of the loop may function as a wipe (see Figures). Regarding claim 8, the pad is a coating non-detachably mounted to the cover (Column 3 Lines 35-37.)

Regarding claim 13, there is a cleaning implement having a cleaning head (80) and handle (unlabeled, Figure 8), and the cover being mounted around the head with the handle extending outwardly from the cleaning head through the open area between the flaps (see Figure 8).

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422

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F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

8. Claims 1-4, 13-14, 16, and 23-24 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-3, 11-12 of U.S. Patent No. 6,745,434 and also claims 1-2, 4, 6, 13-14, and 23-24 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 8, 11-13, and 20-26 of U.S. Patent No. 6,705,792. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because while 6,745,434 and 6,705,792 does not explicitly claim a first contact portion and second contact portion on opposite sides of the central section as being absorbent, it would have been obvious that there is a portion at least just off the center portion of either side of the central portion that is capable of being absorbent as the wipe or dispensing structure of 6,745,434 and 6,705,792 has a dimension from a central portion.

Conclusion


9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US 6,681,434 and US 6,701,567 each to Smith, an inventor named in the present application, are additionally each similar to the present invention.

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10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura C. Guidotti whose telephone number is (571) 272-1272. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 7:30am - 5pm, alternating Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gladys Corcoran can be reached on (571) 272-1214. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Laura C Guidotti
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1744

lcg